



We welcome you to this month's publication, which we hope will be something to lift your spirits and be thought provoking too! There are printed copies available in Lady St Mary Church and these can be picked up at the 10am service and taken to people who do not have the internet and so if you can please share it by posting a copy to a neighbour, thank you.

May Newsletter

Dear Friends,

Local elections, taking place at the start of this month of May, will be the last ones before the General Election later this year. In this country and across the world, people are making choices, albeit restrictive ones in some places, about who will be given power locally and nationally. Power, to potentially transform lives for the better, or not.

Power is an important theme this month in the Church. We will be celebrating Ascension, Pentecost, and Trinity Sunday; festivals associated with the empowering gift of the Holy Spirit.

The story of how Jesus promised his followers '*power from on high*' (Luke 24.49) after his resurrection and how the Holy Spirit was given to Christ's followers at Pentecost, is wonderfully recorded in the Acts of the Apostles.

The power of the Holy Spirit, is given to empower the apostles, to carry on Christ's work. It enables them to share the good news, of who Jesus is, and to embody the values of God's kingdom, despite their fears and failings. It is because their lives were transformed through the power of the Holy Spirit that we can know Jesus today.

'Making Jesus Known' is the new vision for the Diocese of Salisbury (agreed in 2023). It's a biblically based vision, encouraging us to be like the apostles and to share what

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we know of the life-transforming love of Christ, '*so that all might flourish and grow, seeking his Kingdom here and now*'. We need the help, encouragement, counsel, comfort, wisdom, and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to do this. We need the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5.22-23), to enable us, with all our fears and failings, to work together, to do this.

In our world today, so many seem powerless; refugees of war and conflict; people suffering because of climate change; those living in poverty; people who are sick. It is an act of faith - when we see the misuse and abuse of power in our world - to believe that things can be different. They can.

The month of May often feels a hopeful time to me. There are after all, two Bank Holidays, blossoming trees, young leaves, increasing warmth from the sun (!) and hopes for new and improved people in power ... at some point.

Let us keep our local and national leaders in our prayers and also keep praying for people in all positions of responsibility and power, within the world-wide family of the Church.

May we know the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, helping us, to hold onto hope.

Yours in Christ,

Deborah

Further information about the Diocese of Salisbury 'Making Jesus Known' Vision, is available on the website:

<https://www.salisbury.anglican.org/howeare/making-jesus-known-/>

Holy Days

31st May - Day of Pentecost: Whit Sunday

Pentecost took place on the well-established Jewish festival of Firstfruits, which was observed at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was seven weeks after Easter, or 50 days including Easter.

A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit - the day the Church was born.

Jesus had told His disciples that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for His disciples, but He knew they could not do the work themselves. They would need His help.

And so, they waited in Jerusalem, praying together with His other followers, for many days. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues, to the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1- 9) was dramatically reversed that morning.

That morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the disciples and followers of Jesus. The Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent.

Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian Church that morning, proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised. How's that for fast church growth!

Of course, Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. All through the Old Testament there are accounts of how God's Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ's death and resurrection, He could INDWELL them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of His Holy Spirit.

31st May: Mary, the Blessed Virgin, visits Elizabeth

Mary – the virgin mother of Jesus. For centuries, the eastern and western churches have considered her pre-eminent among all the saints.

In the gospels, Mary makes her first appearance as a teenager. Nothing is known of her childhood, and what we do know of her is found mostly in Matthew 1 – 2 and in Luke 1 – 2. If you read both accounts, you'll notice that Luke's account seems to give the story from Mary's standpoint, whereas Matthew concentrates more on Joseph's side of things. In both accounts the virginal conception of Christ is clearly stated. Mary's quiet devotion to God and her total acceptance of His will shine forth.

Her visit to Elizabeth, when both were pregnant, is a moving and poignant account of two humble, ordinary women, suddenly caught up in a great event that would shape world history. Their trusting faith in God and acceptance of His will, shine through.

After Jesus is born, Mary fades into the background, and makes few appearances: when the family visits Jerusalem and she loses her son on the way home; when she urges Him to help the wedding party in Cana with its wine problem; and when Jesus gives her into the keeping of the beloved disciple when He is dying on the cross. Mary's last appearance is in Acts chapter one, just before Pentecost.

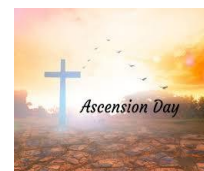
Mary obviously joined the early Church, but her role was never one of teaching and preaching, and indeed she remained so much in the background that nothing more about her is known for certain. Both Ephesus and Jerusalem have claimed to be the place of her death.

Mary, chosen to be the mother of Jesus Christ, one who is both God and Man, holds a unique place in the history of mankind. Down the centuries that have followed, the Church has paid special honour to Mary – and well deserved it is. "All generations shall call me blessed..."

Diary of Events

Ascension Day Service

Our Parish Ascension Day service will take place on **Thursday 9th May 2024** at St Nicholas church, Arne **11am**. All are welcome.



Going Deeper: Everyone welcome!

Do you want to deepen your faith, learn alongside others, and be encouraged in following Jesus Christ?

If so you are warmly invited to Going Deeper:

6pm Sunday 12th May

Sandford St Martin's Church

This month reflecting on the theme of The Holy Spirit

This relaxed gathering, starting with refreshments, includes; worship (prayer, including silence, music and singing), a talk, on an aspect of faith, opportunity to ask and discuss questions and reflect together more deeply.

Ladies That Lunch and Pray: The next meeting will be on Tuesday 14th May 2024.



Please bring a sandwich, lovely cake and drinks will be provided. 12.00 - 14.00pm at the Rectory. For further information or RSVP please contact Linda Tel: 01929 289236 or l.everett1@icloud.com

Open House

'Open House' at Sandford St Martin's Church - **Thursday 30th May at 2 pm.** 'Quiz' - followed by cup of tea, chat, and a raffle. All Welcome.



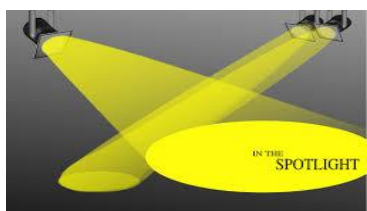
Men's Breakfast - The next Men's breakfast **is to be confirmed** please look out in the Weekly Newsletter. The guest speaker this month is to be confirmed. Whether you are a regular at men's breakfasts, or have never been before, you are most welcome to come along. **Please contact the Parish Office no later than the Wednesday before to book your place, on 01929 550905 or email: parish.office@warehamchurches.org.uk**



Retirement of our Team Rector

Our Team Rector will retire in June of this year, his last service will be in Lady St Mary Church, 10am, on **Sunday 16th June 2024** and will be a united Holy Communion. Following the service there will be a celebratory bring and share lunch.

SPOTLIGHT ON.....



Our feature for the monthly newsletter entitled "Spotlight on...." Each month we interview and introduce personalities and their roles within the five churches of our Parish, as well as articles on aspects of church life. **This month we are acknowledging Nick Burden, as one of our Lady St Mary church, Sound desk and AV technicians.**

As many of you are aware the A-V or audio-visual desk is situated at the back of the nave in Lady St Mary church and is operated by Bob Day, who is the lead operator and Nick Burden. The large wooden desk securely houses a computer and sound desk which provides control for the microphones and the screens and projector. The screen is normally not visible but can be lowered for use during the service.

Our week starts on a Monday with Bill Day sending us the details of the service including the hymns and readings. We use the computer program PowerPoint and this entails preparing the hymns on slides and noting the readings. The format of the service does change throughout the year such as Lent and then Easter and as such we have already

prepared the “bones” of the service and to this we can add the hymns and readings. Sometimes it is necessary to add a video or picture for the sermon.

The first Sunday service is always challenging with the Angel Voices taking a prominent role and the service often needing added support. The second and fourth Sunday are more traditional with the third Sunday being a Praise Service.

Sunday starts with us getting to the church to set up as soon as the 8am service finishes. The microphones are taken from the storage cupboard and placed as needed and the lapel mics and hand mic have batteries fitted. Each microphone needs to be checked to be working properly and any adjustments made at this stage rather than during the service. The controls need to be adjusted to ensure the microphones pick up the voice without distortion or feedback.

The computer and projector are switched on and the screen lowered. The PowerPoint for the service is copied to the computer and sent, using a program called Easy Worship, to the projector and the screens above the organ keyboard and in the chancel. These screens are used for the choir and clergy during the service. Having to manually advance each slide during the service certainly keeps us on our toes as any lapse in concentration can immediately translate in the congregation getting the wrong slide.

We have several other tasks, namely weddings, funerals, and special events. Both weddings and funerals require the use of the microphones and often music needs to be sourced and played from the computer through the system.

Special events such as concerts and the schools’ Christmas services can be very rewarding but time consuming.

As to the future, while recording the service is becoming a possibility, livestreaming is beyond us as the internet at the church is far too slow and currently it is not possible to get a suitable upgrade. The other problem is that there are not enough of us to provide a regular reliable service.

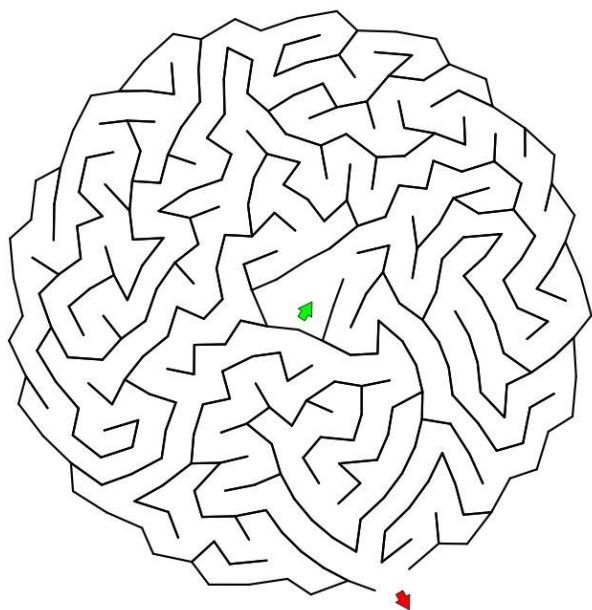
Working on the A-V desk is challenging but rewarding and never boring.

Wareham Baby and Toddler Group

Do you have a little spare time! We are looking for volunteers to help with the teas, coffee and setting up/clearing up each week for Thursday playgroup?

Playgroup runs every Thursday during term time in the Parish Hall, Wareham, from 10am (setup from 9:15) until 11:30 and volunteers in the kitchen are on a rota basis. If you are able to help, please contact the Parish Office Tel: 01929 550905.

Puzzles



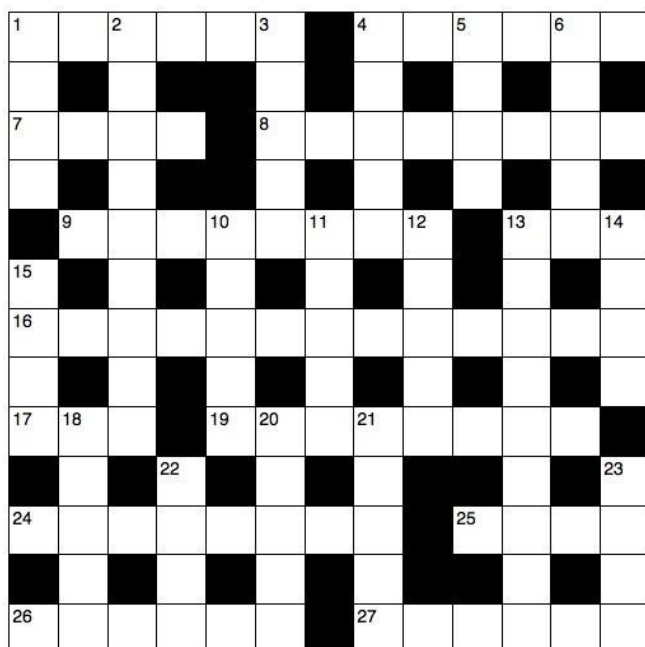
The Maze

	2			1	4		6
9				3	8		
			4				3
	6		2				
	5					4	
				9		7	
6			2				
		3	9				1
8		1	5			9	

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Sudoku

Crossword



27 One was given in honour of Jesus in Bethany (John 12:2) (6)

Clues Down

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the — hear, the dead are raised' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 2 Conduct (Colossians 1:21) (9)
- 3 In the Catholic and Orthodox traditions, the body of a saint or his belongings, venerated as holy (5)

Clues Across

- 1 One who owes money, goods, or services (Isaiah 24:2) (6)
- 4 'A good measure, pressed down, — together and running over' (Luke 6:38) (6)
- 7 Continuous dull pain (Proverbs 14:13) (4)
- 8 This bread contains yeast (Amos 4:5) (8)
- 9 'But take heart! I have — the world' (John 16:33) (8)
- 13 And the rest (abbrev.) (3)
- 16 What Paul was accused of by Tertullus, the high priest's lawyer, in his trial before Felix (Acts 24:5) (13)
- 17 Rap (anag.) (3)
- 19 Founder of the Jesuits in 1534 (8)
- 24 'For where your — is, there your heart will be also' (Luke 12:34) (8)
- 25 The first word written on the wall during King Belshazzar's great banquet (Daniel 5:25) (4)
- 26 'We all, like sheep, have gone — ' (Isaiah 53:6) (6)

- 4 'Like a — of locusts men pounce on it' (Isaiah 33:4) (5)
- 5 Very old (Genesis 44:20) (4)
- 6 In Calvinist theology, one who is predestined by God to receive salvation (5)
- 10 How Nicodemus addressed Jesus when he visited him one night (John 3:2) (5)
- 11 Sea (Psalm 148:7) (5)
- 12 'I will — you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever' (Psalm 145:1) (5)
- 13 One of the groups of philosophers that Paul met in Athens, who disagreed with his teaching about the resurrection (Acts 17:18) (9)
- 14 Barred enclosure (Ezekiel 19:9) (4)
- 15 'Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in — with the Spirit' (Galatians 5:25) (4)
- 18 Cares (anag.) (5)
- 20 Garish (Ezekiel 16:16) (5)
- 21 'So God said to Noah, "I am going to put — — to all people"' (Genesis 6:13) (2,3)
- 22 Just (2 Corinthians 6:13) (4)
- 23 'The — of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge' (Proverbs 1:7) (4)

Contact information!

Parish Office

The Parish Office has now reopened to answer all face-to-face enquiries, telephone and email enquiries **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday** 9am to 1pm. At all other times enquiries and queries can be made by email and they will be dealt with as soon as possible.



Contact details: www.warehamchurches.org.uk

Tel: 01929 550905, **Email:** parish.office@warehamchurches.org.uk

Address: Parish Office, Church Green, Wareham BH20 4ND

Members of the Team are available for confidential help, support, and advice. Please contact:

Clergy Team



Team Rector The Reverend Canon Simon Everett

Tel: 01929 289236

Email: rector@warehamchurches.org.uk

Team Vicars, The Reverends Neil Kelly and Deborah Swann

Tel: 01929 208400

Email: neilkelly3@icloud.com and debjswann@gmail.com

Schools Worker and Pioneer Priest, The Reverend Hilary Bond

Tel: 01929 551219

Email: hilary.bond@me.com

PtO The Reverend Michael Young

Tel: 01929 552582

Email: myng220@btopenworld.com